NATION

Kerala, TN ban 'Coldrif' after deaths of 11 children

≫ Page: 5 ≪

BUSINESS

Rs 1.84L cr assets lying unclaimed with banks & regulators, says FM

≫ Page: 7 ≪

SPORTS

India registers a dominating win over WI

≫ Page: 8 ≪

www.twitter.com/EnglishSalar
www.facebook.com/EnglishSalar
www.instagram.com/dailysalarenglish
youtube.com/@dailysalardigital

SALAR
DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

سالار روزنامہ بنگلور

Website: salarnews.in | www.magzter.com | 5 OCTOBER 2025 | SUNDAY | BENGALURU | 12 RABI' II, 1447 AH | Vol 4 | Issue No 271 | Pages: 8

SALAR 360

TWO YEARS OF **GENOCIDE** IN GAZA

On the 2nd anniversary of the Israel-Gaza war, Salar News captures some of the salient moments.

>>>SEE PAGES 3 & 4

Hamas agrees to release all hostages

Don asks Israel to stop bombing Gaza as Hamas partially accepts peace deal

DEIR AL-BALAH, 4 OCT

US President Donald Trump on Friday ordered Israel to stop bombing Gaza after Hamas announced partial acceptance of his proposed peace plan, including the release of remaining hostages and a willingness to relinquish power.

"I believe they are ready for a lasting PEACE," Trump wrote on social media. "Israel must immediately stop the bombing of Gaza so that we can get the hostages out safely and quickly."

Hamas accepted elements of the plan, including a phased release of Israeli hostages, living and dead, in exchange for Palestinian prisoners. It also agreed to hand over power to a politically independent Palestinian body, but said further internal consultations were needed on certain provisions.

The Trump plan outlines that Hamas will return all hostages within 72 hours of Israel's acceptance. In return, Israel would release 250 Palestinian prisoners serving life sentences and 1,700 others arrested since 7 October, 2023. For each Israeli hostage's remains, 15 deceased Gazans would be returned.

Hamas said it agreed to the framework for ending the war and full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, aligning with Trump's staged withdrawal plan that pauses military action during hostage exchanges.

Hamas also welcomed provisions for a surge in aid and infrastructure rehabilitation via international bodies, while rejecting any displacement of Palestinians. The Trump plan confirms no forced expulsions and affirms the right to return.

However, tensions remain over Gaza's future governance. Trump proposed an international body, headed by him and involving figures like Tony Blair, to oversee a technocratic Palestinian committee. Hamas wants Arab and Islamic support and insists on being part of a "national framework," rejecting exclusion from future governance and making no comment on demilitarisation or foreign stabilisation forces.

Amir Avivi, a retired Israeli general and chairman of Israel's Defence and Security Forum, said while Israel can afford to stop firing for a few days in Gaza so the hostages can be released, it will resume its offensive if Hamas doesn't lay down its arms.

Others say that while Hamas suggests a willingness to negotiate, its position fundamentally remains unchanged.

The next steps are also unclear for Palestinians in Gaza who are trying to piece together what it means in real terms.

"What we want is practical implementation. ... We want a truce on the ground," said Samir Abdel-Hady, in Gaza's Khan Younis. He worried that talks will break down like they've done in the past.

Israeli troops are still laying siege to Gaza City, which is the focus of its latest offensive. On Saturday Israel's army warned Palestinians against trying to return to the city calling it a "dangerous combat zone". —*PTI*

>>>*More on Pg 7*

An installation is on display in memory of children who were victims of violence in Gaza ahead of the second anniversary of the war, at Copacabana beach, in Rio de Janeiro on Saturday **PHOTO: PTI**

MODI HAILS TRUMP'S 'DECISIVE' LEADERSHIP

India welcomes US President Donald Trump's leadership as peace efforts in Gaza make decisive progress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday. Modi referred to the indications of the release of Israeli hostages by Hamas and said it marks a significant step forward in efforts to restore peace in the region. He said on X, "India will continue to strongly support all efforts towards a durable and just peace."

Zubeen was poisoned, alleges arrested bandmate

TOKYO, 4 OCT

In a shocking claim regarding the death of Zubeen Garg, his band member Shekhar Jyoti Goswami has alleged that the singer was poisoned by his manager Siddharth Sharma and festival organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta. Sharma was heard shouting 'Jabo de, jabo de' (let him go, let him go) when Garg was gasping for breath, almost drowning in the sea off Singapore, the accompanying drummer said in the 'Detailed Grounds of Arrest' or remand note of the singer's manager. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 5

Metro services disrupted after man jumps on tracks

BENGALURU, 4 OCT

Services on the Green Line were briefly disrupted on Saturday after a male passenger jumped onto the tracks at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Metro Station, officials said. According to the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), the incident occurred at around 3.17pm when a train was heading towards Madavara. The passenger was rescued immediately and taken to the hospital for treatment. Normal operations were restored by 3.47 pm. During the 30-minute disruption, trains operated only between Madavara and Rajajinagar, and between National College and Silk Institute, BMRCL said. —*PTI*

Help is available. Please call Tele Manas at 14416, SAHAI at 080-25497777 for support.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar during a meeting with all 12 recognised political parties of Bihar **PHOTO: PTI**

Parties in Bihar ask EC to hold polls in 2-phases

NEW DELHI/PATNA, 4 OCT

- Additionally, BJP urged the EC to hold the upcoming Bihar assembly elections in one or two phases, and to ensure that women in burqas are properly verified against their voter ID photographs at the polling booths.

Political parties in poll-bound Bihar told the Election Commission on Saturday to hold assembly elections soon after the Chhat festival to ensure increased voter participation.

Chhat, an important festival in Bihar that is celebrated six days after Diwali, will fall on 25-28 October this year.

In an interaction with Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners SS Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, representatives of six national and as many state parties also pressed for holding elections in a two of phases, officials said.

The poll authority is in Patna for two days to take stock of poll preparedness in the state.

The first phase of elections is likely to be held at the end of October, soon after Chhat.

During Diwali and Chhat, people employed outside Bihar return home for festivities, and it is believed that it is the best time to hold polls to ensure greater voter participation.

In 2020, the last assembly polls in the state were held in three phases under the shadow of the Covid19 pandemic.

Additionally, BJP urged the EC to hold the upcoming Bihar assembly elections in one or two phases, and to ensure that women in burqas are properly verified against their voter ID photographs at the polling booths. The BJP found itself on the same page as the RJD, its principal rival, on the issue of non-staggered elections, but got charged with "political conspiracy" for raising the issue of female voters wearing veils. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 6

Caste survey enumerators protest in B'luru

BENGALURU, 4 OCT

The Social and Educational Survey, popularly known as the caste survey, faced a setback on its first day in Bengaluru after around 100 enumerators staged a protest demanding attention to their grievances.

The sit-in took place at the Malleswaram municipal office, with many of the participants being government teachers. They cited personal difficulties, including ill-health and caring for ailing family members, as reasons for not participating in the mandatory exercise. One enumerator highlighted her challenges by bringing her special needs child to the protest site.

The survey, which began across Karnataka on 22 September and will continue until 7 October, is being conducted at an estimated cost of Rs 420 crore.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar met the agitators later, appealing to both the enumerators and the public to cooperate fully with the exercise. The government reiterated the importance of completing the survey efficiently despite the disruption. —*PTI*

Enumerators carry out the caste survey in Bengaluru's Jayanagar on Saturday. They also staged a protest outside GBA office in Malleshwaram over the target of surveying 200–250 houses each **PHOTOS: MOHAMMED ASAD**

Belagavi tense after stone-pelting, minor clash during urs procession

BELAGAVI, 4 OCT

Tension gripped the Khadak Galli area of Belagavi on Friday night after stone-pelting broke out during the urs procession of the Mehboob Subhani Dargah, following a dispute over religious slogans.

Police said the incident began when a group of youths participating in the procession raised the slogan "I Love Muhammad." The procession, which traditionally avoids Khadak Galli — a Maratha-dominated locality, had reportedly deviated from its usual route. Local residents objected to the change and the slogans, leading to a confrontation that escalated into minor stone-pelting.

"No injuries were reported. Only two stones were thrown, and the situation was brought under control swiftly," said DCP Narayan Baramani, adding that the organisers had not specified the route in advance and that such an incident had not occurred before.

Police Commissioner Bhushan Borase said the matter was diffused with the intervention of community elders. "We are reviewing CCTV footage to identify the mischief-makers. Strict action will be taken," he added.

A KSRP platoon and local police have been deployed in the area as a precaution.

The incident comes just a day before Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's scheduled visit to Belagavi on Saturday. —*Salar News*

Devotees in large numbers participate in a procession as part of Urs **PHOTOS: ANI**

VISHWAKARMA NAMED NEW GUJARAT BJP CHIEF

GANDHINAGAR, 4 OCT

Gujarat Minister and OBC leader Jagdish Vishwakarma was on Saturday declared the new president of the Bharatiya Janata Party's state unit, succeeding Union Minister CR Paatil.

Vishwakarma (52) has succeeded Union Jal Shakti Minister and Lok Sabha MP from Navsari, CR Paatil, whose three-year tenure ended in July 2023, and he continued to hold the post.

The three-time MLA from the Nikol seat of Ahmedabad was the only candidate to file nomination papers for the post on Friday. Vishwakarma is currently serving as the Minister of State for co-operation, salt industries, MSME, cottage, khadi and rural industries. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 6

VETERAN ACTOR SANDHYA SHANTARAM DIES AT 94

MUMBAI, 4 OCT

Veteran actress Sandhya Shantaram, a celebrated star of Hindi and Marathi cinema and the widow of legendary filmmaker V Shantaram, died on Friday night due to age-related ailments. She was 94.

Her son, Kiran Shantaram, confirmed she died at 10pm at Rajkamal Studio, her residence for many years. Sandhya had been unwell for the past four to five years.

Sandhya was the third wife of V Shantaram and featured as his leading lady in many iconic films of the 1950s and 60s, including 'Do Aankhen Barah Haath' (1957), 'Navrang' (1959), Jhanak Jhanak 'Payal Baje' (1955), and 'Pinjra. (1972). She also appeared in Marathi classics such as Sehra, Jal Bin Machhli Nritya Bin Bijli, and Amar Bhoopali.

Sandhya's last rites were performed on Saturday morning at Shivaji Park crematorium in Mumbai. —*PTI*

CAUGHT IN SHOOTING

Hyderabad student shot dead at US gas station

HYDERABAD, 4 OCT

An Indian student from Hyderabad, Pole Chandrashekar, was shot dead by unidentified assailants at a petrol station in Dallas, United States, on Friday night, his family confirmed on Saturday.

Chandrashekar, a Dalit student from LB Nagar, had completed his Bachelor of Dental Surgery in Hyderabad before travelling to the US two years ago to pursue a Master's degree. He completed the MS six months ago and was seeking full-time employment while working part-time at the petrol station to support himself, his brother Damodar told reporters.

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy assurED the family that the state government would provide all necessary assistance for repatriating Chandrashekar's mortal remains.

This incident is the latest in a troubling series of deaths involving young men and students from Telangana in the US. Earlier this year, a 26-year-old student in Connecticut was allegedly murdered, while another man from Mahabubnagar was shot dead by police in California.

The bereaved family is awaiting government support to bring Chandrashekar's body back home, as authorities continue to coordinate with US agencies to ensure timely repatriation. —*PTI*

Aadhaar biometric update fee waived for minors

NEW DELHI, 4 OCT

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has waived all charges for mandatory biometric updates (MBU-1) of Aadhaar for children, effective from 1 October for a period of one year, benefiting nearly 6 crore children.

In a statement issued on Saturday, UIDAI said the move is aimed at easing the Aadhaar update process and enhancing accessibility for families.

Children under the age of five are enrolled in Aadhaar using only demographic details and a photograph, as their biometric features, fingerprints and iris, are not fully developed. As per rules, biometrics must be updated once a child turns five, and again between the ages of 15 and 17.

Previously, these updates were free for children aged 5–7 and those in the 15–17 age group. Beyond this window, a fee of 125 was charged per update. This waiver applies to all biometric updates required for Aadhaar during the specified age brackets and will help ensure accuracy in the national identification system, particularly as children grow.

UIDAI urged parents to take advantage of the waiver and complete the updates. —*PTI*

ED attaches ₹423cr assets in home buyers' fraud

PHOTO: PTI

BENGALURU, 4 OCT

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached assets worth over Rs 423 crore belonging to Bengaluru-based Ozone Urbana Infra Developers and its promoter, S Vasudevan, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The action follows allegations that the firm defrauded homebuyers of Rs 927 crore by failing to hand over apartments and diverting funds for personal use. The attached properties, valued at Rs 423.38 crore, include unsold flats in the company's Avenue and Aqua 2 projects, 4.5 acres of commercial land, and personal properties of Vasudevan and his wife across Karnataka, including 179 acres in Chikkamagaluru district. Further investigation is underway, the ED said in its statement. *—PTI*

22 lakh people watched Jamboo Savari online

MYSURU, 4 OCT

As many as 22 lakh people watched this year's Jamboo Savari procession, the grand finale of Dasara festivities on October 2, through live streaming and social media platforms introduced by the Mysuru district administration. The online viewership rose by one lakh compared to last year's 21 lakh. Officials said the Dasara website and digital platforms linked to over 22 social media handles, including that of the Chief Minister, were a huge success. Fusion Mind Technologies director Yeshwanthkumar, who managed the Dasara website, told Salar News that about 1.33 crore people viewed the 11-day Dasara events online this year — a 30 per cent rise from 97 lakh in 2024. Of these, 25 lakh watched Yuva Dasara events. *—Salar News*

Picnic tragedy: 3 drown, 4 missing in M'rashtra beach

BELAGAVI, 4 OCT

A devastating incident occurred on Friday evening at Shiroda-Velgar beach in Maharashtra, where three members of a family from Belagavi drowned, and four others are reported missing during a picnic. The eight-member family from Londa village in Khanapur taluka was enjoying their Dasara vacation when they encountered trouble while swimming in the sea. Local police and disaster management teams promptly initiated rescue efforts. During the search, the bodies of the deceased were recovered, identified as Farin Irfan Kittur, 34, Ibad Kittur, 13, and Nameera Akter, 16. A 16-year-old girl from the group was successfully rescued and is now reported safe. Authorities said operations to locate the missing individuals would continue. *—Salar News*

Venugopal dismisses CM change rumours

BENGALURU, 4 OCT

AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal has dismissed speculation about a possible change in Chief Minister later this year, asserting that the Congress is fully capable of handling State leadership decisions. Speaking to reporters, Venugopal said, "The Indian National Congress is capable enough to decide what should happen in our party. Please leave that decision to our party. You don't worry." He urged the media to drop the "five years, 2.5 years" narrative of a rotational CM arrangement. Political circles have speculated on an unconfirmed power-sharing deal between CM Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, with some Congress MLAs recently claiming that Shivakumar would assume the Chief Minister post next.*—PTI*

CM: Will launch medical college in every district

Siddaramaiah says govt hospitals are needed for upliftment

BELAGAVI, 16 OCT

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said his goal is to set up a government hospital and a medical college in every district of the State, after inaugurating a Super Speciality Hospital building in Belagavi.

"All those who come to government hospitals are poor and middle-class people. To provide the best healthcare services even to them, my goal is to construct one government medical college and one multi-speciality hospital in every district," said Siddaramaiah.

He stressed that merely constructing a hospital building is not enough, and appointing doctors is equally important. "We will also appoint specialist doctors accordingly. We have decided to fill the vacant posts."

He also laid the foundation stones for several development projects, including doctors' residential quarters, a new city bus terminal under the Smart City scheme. He said 100 electric busses would soon ply Belagavi.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurates a Super Speciality Hospital building in Belagavi on Saturday *PHOTO: X*

NDRF FUNDS NOT USED FOR GUARANTEES

Siddaramaiah accused the BJP of trying to mislead people over the Congress government's five guarantee schemes with false charges.

He was replying to the allegations raised by some BJP leaders that the State government was using the National Disaster Response Funds (NDRF) for the guarantees, due to which the flood relief works were affected.

"We never used NDRF on our guarantees. For the BJP, the five guarantees have become like jaundice. They are restless because of our guarantees. They are even copying our scheme in Bihar, Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Haryana," he said.

Taking aim at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said, "He had said that guarantees cannot be implemented. Didn't we do it?"

LEADERSHIP ROW

Hitting back at rumours about a change in Chief Ministers, Siddaramaiah said, "Why should (BJP) break their heads on the internal matters of our party? Who are they? Are they our High Command?"

—Salar News with Agencies

BJP Leader R Ashoka said that the government had not given compensation to farmers who were affected by floods two months ago *PHOTO: PTI*

Flood compensation not yet given: Ashoka

BENGALURU, 4 OCT

Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka criticised the Congress government over its handling of flood and crop damage in the State.

The BJP MLA said that around 10-12 lakh hectares of crop have been damaged due to rain in the State but the government has not provided compensation yet.

"It has been two months since the rains started. 10-12 lakh hectares of crops have been damaged. 52,000 hectares of crops have been damaged in Vijayapura district. The State government has not given compensation for crop damage so far," he said.

"Two farmers have died by suicide. This was because of the injustice you have done," he said.

> **Flood-affected people did not celebrate Dasara...They did not eat happily, but they celebrated with tears in their eyes, filling their houses with water. If there is a meal, the farmers have to wash their hands with tears in their eyes.**
>
> R Ashoka, BJP leader

He further questioned the State's response. "Congress asks why the BJP came after the floods had stopped. Have the floods subsided now? Why haven't you visited the flood-affected areas? Where are the ministers? This is a government that is making farmers' lives miserable."

Several districts in Kalyana Karnataka – notably Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Bidar, and Yadgir – had flooded due to excessive rainfall. *—ANI*

Questions need to be simplified: DKS after taking caste survey

BENGALURU, 4 OCT

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said that the questions for the social and educational survey being conducted by the Backward Classes Commission should be simplified, as he flagged of the popularly known 'caste census' for the Greater Bengaluru Area on Saturday.

When speaking to reporters at his Sadashivanagar, he was asked about the need to simplify the survey questionnaire as it had too many questions

"I also saw the questionnaire today, it needs simplification. Patience is low in urban areas," he said. "The survey was conducted at my residence today and I have provided all the details. I appeal to all communities to participate in the survey and provide all the details,"

He appealed to people to participate in the survey to provide justice to the future generations.

"The Court has ruled that these questions are not mandatory and no one can be forced to respond. Providing a response to some of these questions is optional. I have also told the interviewers to be sensitive to the needs of the interviewed in City especially," he said.

Asked about many people refusing to participate in the survey, he said, "It is our duty to educate them and we are doing it diligently."

Replying to a complaint that there are server issues for the survey, he said, "The people concerned will fix it. There is a provision to participate in the survey online as well." *—Salar News*

The caste survey was launched in Greater Bengaluru Area on Saturday *PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD*

Surjewala hits back at HDG over guarantees

BENGALURU, 4 OCT

AICC General Secretary and Karnataka-in charge Randeep Singh Surjewala hit back at JD(S) supremo HD Deve Gowda's claims that the State's five guarantee schemes are a financial burden, terming the Opposition BJP-JD(S) "blind".

"They can't see the huge life changing impact and metamorphosis" of the guarantees, Surjewala wrote on X. "Such political parties should hang their heads in shame."

Lauding the initiatives, he noted that women had taken 504 crore free bus trips under Shakti guarantee, saying it was a "new World Record".

"90 per cent of households saved money and had extra money for 'household needs' owing to Gruha Jyothi Guarantee of giving 200 Units of Free Electricity to 1,66,00,000 households," he added. "Gruha Lakshmi, Gruha Jyothi and Anna Bhagya has boosted family savings and economic prosperity."

Deve Gowda had claimed on Friday that the government did not have the budget for compensation funds to the flood-affected people, owing to the guarantee schemes.

"Now, none less then former PM Deve Gowda has been fielded by BJP to oppose the guarantees!" Surjewala wrote. "Every Kannadiga knows that the BJP-JD(S) wants to stop the five Congress guarantees so that the flag of social distributive justice is halted." *—Salar News*

- Randeep Singh Surjewala said the Opposition BJP-JD(S) was "blind" to the benefits of the schemes

2 girls' bodies mysteriously found in a well

KOLAR, 4 OCT

Two teenage girls who went missing from their home on the 2nd of this month were found dead under mysterious circumstances in a well near Kuppam Palya under Mulbagal rural police limits, in Kolar district on Saturday. The deceased girls, Dhanya Bai and Chaithra Bai, both thirteen years old, were studying in the 7th standard at a government school in Yelachepalli village. On 2 Oct, the two were playing in front of their house, when at around 3.00pm, Chaithra reportedly asked Dhanya to accompany her to attend nature's call. Both of them did not return, prompting their families to lodge a missing complaint with the police, who then launched a search. Police found their bodies in a well on Saturday. *—Salar News*

Suspect held for poisoning MM Hills tiger

BENGALURU, 4 OCT

A day after a tiger was found dead in the Male Mahadeshwara (MM) Wildlife Division, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre on Saturday directed officials to hold consultations with residents and submit a report on declaring the area a tiger reserve.

The carcass of the 12-year-old tiger, discovered on 2 Oct, is suspected to have been poisoned, according to preliminary findings.

Forest officials said a suspect has been detained in connection with the case, in which the animal was allegedly chopped into three parts.

"Interrogation is underway, and the actual cause of death will be known soon," they added. A post-mortem revealed no evidence of snaring or gunshot injuries and confirmed that no body parts were missing, officials said.

Chairing an emergency video conference with forest officers from all tiger reserves and the Mysuru division, Khandre noted that the State Wildlife Board had already approved a proposal to declare MM Hills a tiger reserve.

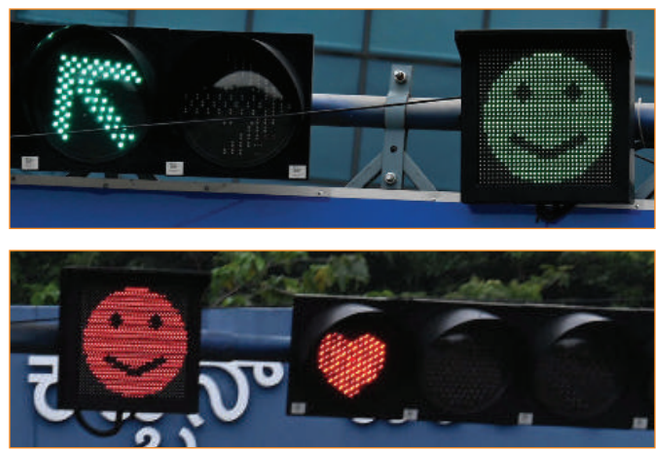
"Officials must now consult local representatives and submit the final report," a statement from his office said.

—Salar News with agencies

Tusker electrocuted near Channapatna

A 40-year-old tusker elephant has died after being electrocuted when it came into contact with a live electric wire on a farm in Channapatna, located in the Bengaluru South district, forest officials reported on Saturday. Deputy Conservator of Forests Ramkrishnappa Sagar stated, "The elephant was attempting to feed on the fronds of a coconut palm when it touched an overhead electricity line on Friday.

DRIVE HAPPY, DRIVE SAFE



Smiley emoji symbols were used at traffic signal lights in Bengaluru on Saturday. The signs are part of a creative initiative by the traffic police to promote safe driving *PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD*

'NEPO KIDS' ROW

HCM defends grandson's jeep ride with CM

MYSURU, 4 OCT

Mysuru district in-charge minister HC Mahadevappa defended the presence of his grandson in an open jeep during Dasara with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah after a former top cop said it was an arrogant gesture.

Mahadevappa's grandson was seen riding with him in an open jeep with Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, and other ministers after the Nandhi Dwaja pooja in Mysuru.

Bhaskar Rao, the former police commissioner of Bengaluru took exception to it, along with the Opposition BJP.

"In a formal parade of Mysore Dasara, along with a jamboree of Ministers with CM Siddaramiah, a young Nepokid rides the ceremonial guard of honour jeep," Rao wrote on X.

Mysuru District in-charge Minister HC Mahadevappa's grandson was seen riding with CM Siddaramaiah during Dasara *PHOTO: X*

"Scant respect, arrogance, entitled attitude and no regard for people's Dasara, Siddaramiah makes a mockery of (the) entire Dasara. Pride will fall and (the) day is not far when people will be filled with Anger and Hatred. A Nepal like situation waiting to happen... Dharwad Town almost came to a boil....last week."

Mahadevappa hit back, defending the move. Speaking to press in Msyuru, Mahadevappa said "No protocol is violated on the occasion".

"The event is also not a parade event, not even flag hoisting ceremony.... His (CM's) political opponents who do not know about this make such comments in social media," he added.

Mahadevappa added that the CM post was not vacant, dismissing claims of leadership change and saying that the final decision rests with the party's High Command.

Reacting to the death of 12 children which has been linked to the consumption of contaminated cough syrup in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and some other states, Mahadevappa criticised the Centre for acting belatedly and issuing an advisory only after the children died. *—Salar News*

Doctor was absent: Govt on 8-year-old's death

KOLAR, 4 SEPT

The death of an eight-year-old girl, Tanvi, following the alleged administration of a high dose of an injection by an unqualified person, has prompted the Kolar district health authorities to crack down on clinics run illegally by non-qualified practitioners.

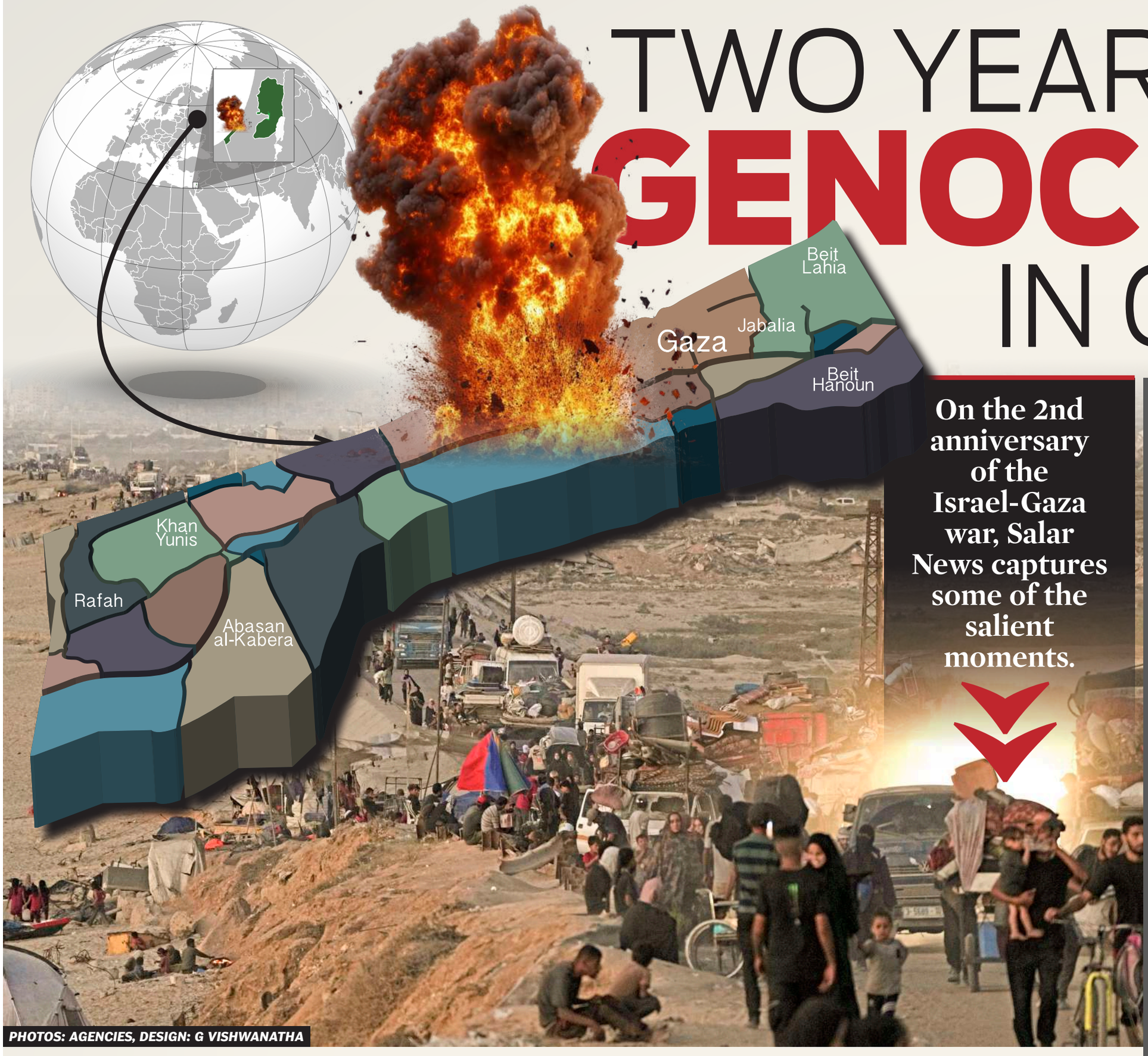
District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. Srinivas said preliminary reports revealed that the clinic in Santhe Halli where the girl was first taken was operating on a "proprietary" basis and that the Ayurvedic doctor officially in charge was not present at the time.

Only a thorough investigation can reveal who administered the girl with the high dosage injection which parents alleged killed the girl, he said.

Dr. Srinivas added that the department had already begun closing several such unlicensed clinics, particularly in rural and border areas, and legal proceedings have been initiated against many quacks.

He explained that some clinics function under agreements where proprietors—often unqualified individuals—hire registered doctors to lend legitimacy but end up administering medicines themselves. Around a dozen such clinics are believed to exist in the district. *—Salar News*

TWO YEARS OF GENOCIDE IN GAZA



On the 2nd anniversary of the Israel-Gaza war, Salar News captures some of the salient moments.

PHOTOS: AGENCIES, DESIGN: G VISHWANATHA

ON 7 OCTOBER, 2023

- Hamas gunmen attacked southern Israel, killing 1,200.
- Some 250 people are taken back to Gaza and held captive. These hostages become a central issue.
- Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declares war and orders airstrikes and a total siege of Gaza.

ISRAEL GROUND OFFENSIVE INTO GAZA

On 13 October, Israel tells at least a million residents of Gaza to evacuate and move south. Israel Defence Force (IDF) troops move into the Gaza Strip, marking the invasion of the territory.

AL SHIFA HOSPITAL

On 15 November, Israeli troops enter Gaza's biggest hospital al Shifa. IDF claims the hospital is a Hamas headquarter but the hospital denies it. All hospitals stop functioning in the north in a few weeks. Newborns were among those who died due to lack of power and supplies.

US AND UK LAUNCH AIRSTRIKES ON YEMEN

11 January, 2024: Worried about attacks on the Red Sea shipping by Houthi rebels, the US and UK launch airstrikes on Yemen. Houthis vow to continue attacks.

NOVEMBER CEASEFIRE

Israel and Hamas announce first truce - they agree to pause fighting for four days to exchange hostages and to allow aid. The ceasefire lasted a week and hostages were freed. On 1 December, Israeli forces start attacking southern Gaza, the outskirts of Khan Younis city. People are killed in refugee camps. On 8 December, the US vetoes a UN Security Council demand for humanitarian ceasefire. The UK abstains. Three Israeli hostages are 'mistakenly' killed by IDF on 15 December.

GENOCIDE CHARGE

On **11 January, 2024**, the International Court of Justice hears a case in which South Africa accuses Israel of committing genocide. Israel denies it. On 1 April, seven aid workers from World Central Kitchen are killed in Gaza. Meanwhile, the UN warns that famine is imminent in northern Gaza and says 1.1M are starving.

IRAN AND ISRAEL TRADE SALVOS

Tehran says Israeli strike on its embassy in Damascus killed Iranian officers. In retaliation, Iran launches missiles and drones at Israel on 13 April. Most are intercepted. Israel strikes targets in Iran, hitting its air defence radar. Thousands protest, asking Netanyahu to reach a ceasefire deal.

OUTCRY OVER RAFAH DEATHS

Israeli airstrike on Rafah camp kills 45 in May, killing mostly children and women. Netanyahu calls it a "tragic mistake".

POLIO OUTBREAK

Gaza saw an outbreak of the vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2. The region has been polio free for 25 years. The virus was detected in wastewater samples. 1,87,000 kids were vaccinated from 1-3 Sept.

NEGOTIATIONS FAIL IN EGYPT

Hamas says it has accepted a ceasefire proposed by Egypt and Qatar, but Israel calls it a "ruse". People on the streets of Rafah celebrate after Hamas's announcement, but hours later Israeli says it is still attacking.

DEATH TOLL

80%
of the deceased are civilians

GAZANS
66,317

ISRAELIS
1,983

JOURNALISTS
270

AID WORKERS
224

ISRAEL SAYS...

Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said that blocking humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip is "justified and moral" even if it causes two million Gazans to die of starvation.

WHO HAS RECOGNISED PALESTINIAN STATE?

156
of the 193-member states of the United Nations. These include India, the UK, Turkey, France, Spain.

... And the world looks away

TRUMP'S PEACE PLAN

Trump and Netanyahu met at the White House on 29 September to discuss ending the war in Gaza. The US has proposed a 20-point peace plan, agreed by Israel. The plan includes a "board of peace" to oversee its implementation, headed by Trump. Trump says Netanyahu will have full US backing if Hamas does not agree. Bibi also spoke to rows of empty seats at the United Nations General Assembly in New York City, and vowed to "finish the job" against Hamas.

SUMUD FLOTILLA

Over 500 activists from at least 44 nations embarked on the Global Sumud Flotilla, a convoy of 40-50 civilian vessels carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza. Their goal was to break Israel's maritime blockade of Gaza and create a passage for humanitarian aid. The vessels began their journey from Barcelona on 1 September, Spain. On 1 October, Israeli Navy intercepted and boarded most of the boats off the coast of Gaza, detaining the activists, including Greta Thunberg. The detainees were reportedly transferred to Israel for processing and potential deportation.

WORLD FAILS STARVING CHILDREN

At least 151 children have perished through acute malnutrition in the Gaza Strip since the start of the war. Malnutrition crisis has reached catastrophic levels with the entire child population under five – over 3,20,000 children - at risk of acute malnutrition. Across Gaza, just 14 out of 38 hospitals remain open, WHO reports.

> **Israel destroyed Gaza materially, and Gaza destroyed Israel morally.**
>
> **Material destruction is temporary, but moral destruction is permanent.**
>
> — Mohammed Al-Shanquiti, Professor of Political Science, author, and academic.

UNIVERSITIES PROTEST GENOCIDE

Pro-Palestinian protests on university campuses escalated from April 2024. On 18 April, 2024, mass arrests were made at the Columbia University campus when protesters demanded the varsity's disinvestment from Israel over the Gaza genocide. Over 3,100 were arrested in the US in some 60 campuses. Protests spread across Europe too. Trinity College Dublin in Ireland agreed to end its investments in Israeli firms that are listed on the United Nations Human Rights Council "blacklist". The University of Helsinki in Finland suspended student exchanges with Israeli universities, while Ghent University in Belgium cut ties with Israeli universities and research institutions.

COURT RULING ON ISRAEL SETTLEMENT POLICY

On 19 July, the International Court of Justice rules that Israel's settlement policy in occupied Palestinian territories is in breach of international law.

NETANYAHU VISITS US

In July, Netanyahu visits the US and vows to destroy Hamas. But then US vice president Kamala Harris says she will "not be silent".

TENSIONS WITH HEZBOLLAH

A strike in Israel-occupied Golan Heights kills 12 children. Netanyahu blames Hezbollah and IDF kills Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukr in Beirut.

HAMAS LEADER KILLED

In July, Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh is killed in Iran. Yahya Sinwar (in pic) is named new Hamas leader.

FALLOUT FROM ASSASSINATIONS

On 10 August, Israeli strike on a school-turned-shelter kills many in Gaza. Israel called it a Hamas base.

FRESH CEASEFIRE TALKS

Peace talks resume in Qatar but no deal is agreed upon.

EXPLODING PAGERS

On 17 September, there was mass explosion of handheld pagers used by Hezbollah members in Lebanon, killing 12 and injuring 3,000. Israel is believed to be behind the attacks.

HASSAN NASRALLAH KILLED

Israel targets Beirut and kills Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. In September, IDF tanks are seen at the Israel-Lebanon border.

ISRAEL MOVES INTO LEBANON AND IRAN

Israeli forces cross Lebanon border to attack Hezbollah. On 1 October, Iran launches 200 missiles on Israel. Iran claims 90% of missiles hit targets, but Israel says no one was injured.

A YEAR SINCE HAMAS ATTACKS

- On 7 October, 2024, there is outcry from France, Italy and Spain over Israel hitting UN peacekeepers in Lebanon.
- On 18 October, Hamas confirms its leader Yahya Sinwar's death.
- A week later, Israel hits Iran's military sites.
- On 19 October, a drone hit Netanyahu's home in Caesarea, suspected to have been launched from Lebanon.

ARREST WARRANTS ISSUED

On 6 November, Netanyahu sacks his defence minister Yoav Gallant. Meanwhile, Qatar says it won't host Hamas' political office unless ceasefire takes place.
On 22 November, the International Criminal Court issues arrest warrants for Netanyahu, Gallant and Hamas leader Ibrahim al Masri.
Later, Israel and Hezbollah agree a ceasefire deal after 3,500 Lebanese people are dead.

SYRIA REGIME FALLS

In December, rebel forces in Syria bring down Bashar al Assad's regime, a blow to Iran's influence.
Israel bombs Syrian military bases to ensure rebels don't get weapons. IDF seizes Syrian side of the disputed Golan Heights.

CEASEFIRE DEAL REACHED

On 13 January, 2025, then US president Joe Biden says a ceasefire deal is "on the brink". Qatar agrees. On 19 January, the ceasefire begins and some hostages are released.
On 27 January, Palestinians are relieved as they are allowed to return home in north Gaza.

THE FUTURE OF GAZA

In February, all hell breaks loose as US President Donald Trump says US will take over Gaza. He posts an AI video showing a future for Gaza, with a golden statue of himself. In March, Arab leaders adopt a plan to rebuild Gaza without displacing Palestinians.

NO ELECTRICITY

On 9 March, Israel says it is cutting electricity supply to Gaza after Hamas refuses to extend the ceasefire.

CEASEFIRE COLLAPSES

Two days later, Israeili airstrike in Gaza kills many. On 17 March, the UK accuses Israel of breaking internation law. Israel begins ground offensive to retake Gaza.

PARAMEDICS KILLED

North Gaza sees anti-Hamas protests for the first time.
On 23 March, Israeli strikes kill 15, including eight medics of Palestine Red Crescent. Israel refuses to allow humanitarian aid.

ISRAEL'S 'OCCUPY GAZA' PLAN

On 5 May, Israel says it plans to capture entire Gaza.
On 18 May, Israel and Hamas say truce talks are underway in Qatar. Soon, Israel says it has resumed letting aid into Gaza.

US JOINS WAR

Following reports of talks between the US and Iran over the latter's nuclear programme, Israel strikes Iran. Iran then attacks Israel's Iron Dome air defence system - with some missiles getting through. The American B-2 bombers attacked Iran's nuclear facilities on 21 June, marking US' direct entry into the Gaza war. Palestinians seeking aid at food distribution sites continued to be targeted.

MAN-MADE STARVATION

WHO says Gaza is suffering "man-made mass starvation" because of the Israeli blockade on aid. Israel denies it is responsible for food shortages. Food prices go through the roof.

AL JAZEERA TARGETTED

On 21 September, Israeli forces raided Al Jazeera bureau in Ramallah, confiscating equipment and tearing down a poster of slain Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh before ordering the office's closure for 45 days.

Kerala, TN ban 'Coldrif' after deaths of 11 children

MP bans sale of cough syrup too, TN confirms contamination

CHENNAI/BHOPAL/JAIPUR/NEW DELHI, 4 OCT

The Tamil Nadu and Kerala government have banned the sale of Coldrif cough syrup after test samples were found to be adulterated, following the deaths of 11 children, nine in Madhya Pradesh and two in Rajasthan, due to suspected renal failure linked to the medicine.

The syrup, manufactured by Sresan Pharma at its facility in Kanchipuram, was banned across Tamil Nadu from 1 October. State officials confirmed the presence of Diethylene Glycol (DEG) in the samples beyond permissible limits. The production at the facility has been halted pending further investigation.

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) also launched risk-based inspections at manufacturing units of 19 drugs, including cough syrups and antibiotics, across six states. Multidisciplinary teams from ICMR, AIIMS Nagpur, and other agencies are investigating causes of death in Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh.

The Union Health Ministry has advised against prescribing cough and cold medications to children under two years **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

Following a request from Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu tested Coldrif samples and confirmed contamination. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced a statewide ban on Coldrif and other drugs by the manufacturer, vowing strict action against those responsible.

Meanwhile, the Rajasthan government suspended its drug controller and halted distribution of all medicines made by Jaipur-based Kaysons Pharma. An expert committee has been formed, and all cough syrups containing Dextromethorphan have been suspended from supply.

The Union Health Ministry has advised against prescribing cough and cold medications to children under two years, reiterating an earlier directive.

Congress leader Kamal Nath alleged the cough syrups were tainted with "brake oil solvent", leading to kidney failure in children.

Currently, 13 children, including those from Chhindwara and Nagpur, are undergoing treatment. Investigations are ongoing. *—PTI*

Manager & orgainser poisoned Zubeen, alleges bandmate

GUWAHATI, 4 OCT

In a sensational twist in the death of celebrated singer-composer Zubeen Garg, his bandmate Shekhar Jyoti Goswami has alleged that Garg was poisoned in Singapore by his manager Siddharth Sharma and event organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta.

According to police remand documents accessed by PTI, Goswami claimed that the duo conspired to kill Garg while attending the 4th NorthEast India Festival in Singapore. Garg died under mysterious circumstances while swimming in the sea on September 19. He was reportedly an expert swimmer.

A CID Special Investigation Team (SIT) is probing the death, and four people, Sharma, Mahanta, and band members Goswami and Amritprabha Mahanta, have been arrested and sent to 14 days' police remand. Goswami told police Sharma shouted "Let him go" while Garg was gasping for breath and allegedly took control of the yacht, endangering all onboard.

A second post-mortem was conducted in Guwahati on 23 Septembe, and viscera samples have been sent to a Delhi forensic lab. Assam Police handed the report to Garg's wife Garima on Saturday.

Garima returned the report to the police, saying that it is not her "personal document" and the investigators will be the best judge to decide whether it should be made public or not.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said Garima received the Singapore autopsy report and it is up to her to make it public.

The Assam government has also constituted a one-man judicial commission led by Justice Soumitra Saikia of Gauhati High Court to probe the "facts and circumstances" behind Garg's death, including possible foul play or negligence.

Over 60 FIRs have been lodged across Assam in connection with the case. *—PTI*

Kerala school faces protests after mime on Gaza stopped

KASARAGOD, 4 OCT

Student organisations MSF and SFI staged protests at Kumbala Government Higher Secondary School in Kerala after teachers allegedly stopped a mime performance supporting Palestine during the school's arts festival. Police said two teachers intervened and pulled down the stage curtains, ending the show abruptly. The move drew sharp criticism, prompting the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) to hold a meeting. However, MSF activists reportedly stormed the meeting, demanding action against the teachers, while SFI members also protested on campus. Protesters claimed students were locked in a classroom to prevent the performance. Police removed the demonstrators and deployed personnel at the school. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Rhea Chakraborty gets her passport back after 5 years

NEW DELHI, 4 OCT

Actor Rhea Chakraborty has regained her passport after five years, following a Bombay High Court order in her favour related to the death of her late partner, Sushant Singh Rajput. The 33-year-old shared a photo on Instagram holding the passport at an airport, writing, "Patience was my only passport for the past five years... Ready for my Chapter 2! Satyameva Jayate." Chakraborty was arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau in September 2020 in a drug case linked to Rajput's death and was granted bail after surrendering her passport. Known for films like Sonali Cable and Jalebi, she was last seen in Chehre (2021) and later appeared on television in MTV Roadies: Karm Ya Kaand and Double Cross. *—PTI*

TN govt to deliver ration at doorsteps ahead of Deepavali

CHENNAI, 4 OCT

The Tamil Nadu government will provide essential Public Distribution System (PDS) commodities directly to the homes of senior citizens and differently-abled family cardholders on 5 and 6 October, ahead of the Deepavali festival on 20 October. The doorstep delivery is being conducted under the 'Thayumanavar' Scheme, launched by Chief Minister MK Stalin in August. Officials said the distribution will be carried out simultaneously across the state, aiming to spare elderly and disabled citizens the difficulty of visiting local fair price shops and waiting in queues. Approximately 21.7 lakh cardholders are expected to benefit. *—PTI*

Calicut Varisty retains Vedan's songs in syllabus

MALAPPURAM, 4 OCT

The Calicut University Board of Studies has decided to retain songs by rapper-lyricist Hirandas Murali, known as Vedan, and singer-composer Gowry Lekshmi in the BA third-semester Malayalam syllabus. The Board, chaired by Dr MS Ajith, rejected a review by former department head Dr MM Basheer, who had recommended their removal. Ajith stated Basheer's report lacked "legal validity" and emphasised that Vedan's Bhoomi njan vaazhunna idam should be valued for its message rather than literary merit. Similarly, Gowry Lekshmi's Kathakali was included for its theme, not devotion. Education Minister V Sivankutty had opposed removing the songs, though Vedan's inclusion has sparked criticism following sexual misconduct cases against him. *—PTI*

UPSC to publish provisional answer key soon after prelims

NEW DELHI, 4 OCT

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has informed the Supreme Court that it will begin publishing provisional answer keys after the Civil Services Preliminary Examination, marking a significant step towards greater transparency.

In an affidavit filed last month in an ongoing case concerning the Civil Services Examination, the UPSC said the final answer key will continue to be released after the declaration of the final results.

The Commission said the move follows detailed internal deliberations and recommendations from the court-appointed amicus curiae.

"As a result of comprehensive deliberations, and considering the constitutional responsibilities entrusted to the UPSC, the Commission has consciously decided to publish the provisional answer key post the preliminary examination," the affidavit, filed through advocate Vardhman Kaushik, stated.

Candidates will be invited to submit objections or representations, supported by at least three authoritative sources. However, the UPSC reserves the right to determine whether a source qualifies as authoritative. All representations and objections, along with the provisional answer key, will be reviewed by a panel of subject experts. This expert team will then finalise the answer key, which will form the basis for declaring the preliminary examination results. *—PTI*

UP: 5 arrested over 'I love Muhammad' poster

MEERUT/JALANDHAR, 4 OCT

Five people were arrested in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, for allegedly putting up an "I Love Muhammad" poster at a busy intersection in Mawana town, police said on Saturday. The poster, put up on Friday night, prompted objections from locals and led to a brief protest the following morning. Mawana Station House Officer Poonam Jadon said a case was registered against Idrish, Tasleem, Rihan, Gulfam, and Haroon under section 353 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for statements conducing to public mischief. The posters were promptly removed, and additional police forces were deployed to maintain order. Police patrolling was increased across the town, and the administration appealed to residents to remain calm, avoid spreading rumours, and cooperate with authorities to ensure peace. The arrests also triggered tension in Jalandhar, Punjab, on Friday when members of one community staged a march to protest the detentions linked to the campaign in Uttar Pradesh, including that of a local cleric. *—PTI*

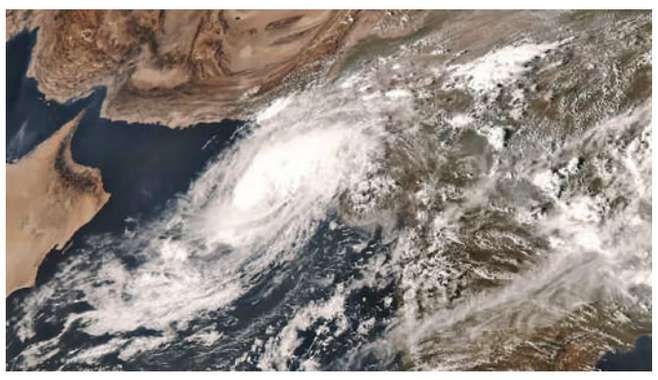
Bizman denies wrongdoing in Sabarimala row

T'PURAM, 4 OCT

Bengaluru-based businessman Unnikrishnan Potty, facing allegations over the gold-plating of the Dwarapalaka idols at the Sabarimala temple, has denied any wrongdoing, saying all documents provided by the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) identified the plates as copper. Speaking to reporters, Potty, who sponsored the work, said the same was mentioned in the Mahazar records and that he had relied solely on official documents.

He suggested that the original gold layer might have worn off over the years due to depreciation, prompting the TDB to decide on re-plating. Potty also clarified that he had no role in the alleged disappearance of the pedestal (peedam), explaining that it was returned after fitting issues and later remained with his associate Vasudevan during the COVID period.

According to him, gold cladding can be done at Sabarimala, but electroplating must take place in a factory. He added that temple officials usually approach devotees to sponsor such works, a process he followed. Potty rejected accusations of using VIP influence or misusing photographs with political leaders. Meanwhile, actor Jayaram said he knew Potty through temple visits but denied any financial involvement, adding that sacred articles were briefly kept at his home for a pooja. *—PTI*


The IMD reported that Shakhti is moving west-southwestwards and is likely to reach the northwest Arabian Sea by Sunday **PHOTO: X**

Cyclone churns up Arabian Sea off Gujarat coast

NEW DELHI, 4 OCT

- Under its influence, sea conditions are likely to remain rough.

Cyclone Shakhti, the first cyclonic storm of the post-monsoon season in the Arabian Sea, has intensified into a severe cyclonic storm, officials said on Saturday. Packing winds of around 100 kmph with stronger gusts, the system is currently located about 420 km off the coast of Dwarka in Gujarat, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The IMD reported that Shakhti is moving west-southwestwards and is likely to reach the northwest and adjoining west-central Arabian Sea by Sunday. From Monday morning, it is expected to recurve east-northeastwards and gradually weaken.

Under its influence, sea conditions are likely to remain rough to very rough along and off the Gujarat–North Maharashtra and Pakistan coasts until Sunday. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the northwest, northeast, and central Arabian Sea or along these coasts until Tuesday.

The cyclone has been named Shakhti, meaning "power", by Sri Lanka, following the naming convention set by the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones. *—PTI*

UP mosque demolition: HC bins plea

PRAYAGRAJ, 4 OCT

The Allahabad High Court on Saturday dismissed a writ petition challenging the demolition of a mosque in Sambhal district, which was allegedly built on pond land. The ruling was issued by Justice Dinesh Pathak in response to a petition filed by the mosque committee.

The petitioners argued that the local Muslim community had been peacefully praying at the mosque in the Gosulbara Ravan Bujurg area since 2009 and claimed they were not given proper notice or an opportunity to be heard before the demolition order was issued. The government contended that the petition was not maintainable.

The case was heard urgently as the petitioners emphasised the necessity of a hearing during the Dussehra vacation due to the immediate nature of the demolition order. The petition alleged that the demolition order was purportedly passed on 2 September and had not been served to the petitioners until 2 October, despite it being the basis for the demolition.

The petitioners argued that Muslims had been peacefully praying at the mosque in the Gosulbara Ravan Bujurg area since 2009 **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

On 30 September, a notice was issued informing the petitioners of the proposed demolition, referencing the 2 September order. Despite 2 October being a public holiday for Dasara, district administration officials reportedly arrived at the site with bulldozers, threatening immediate action against the mosque. *—PTI*

2 INDIANS JAILED FOR ROBBING SEX WORKERS IN SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE, 4 OCT

Two Indian men, Arokkiyasami Daison, 23, and Rajendran Mayilarasan, 27, were each sentenced to five years and one month in prison, along with 12 strokes of the cane, for robbing and assaulting two sex workers in Singapore.

The incident occurred two days after their arrival from India on 24 April, when a man in Little India provided them contact details for two women. Arokkiyasami proposed they rob one of the women, and they arranged to meet her in a hotel room.

Inside, they tied her up and assaulted her, taking jewellery, SGD 2,000 in cash, her passport, and bank cards. Later that night, they met the second woman in another hotel, where they similarly robbed her of SGD 800 in cash, two mobile phones, and her passport while threatening her. Their crimes were uncovered when the second victim confided in someone the next day, prompting police involvement. During sentencing, Arokkiyasami lamented, "We have no money," while Rajendran stated, "My wife and child are alone in India, and they are financially suffering." *—PTI*

INDIA TO COUNTER CLAIM

Nirav cites 'interrogation risk' to reopen extradition trial in UK

NEW DELHI/LONDON, 4 OCT

Fugitive diamantaire Nirav Modi has petitioned London's Westminster Magistrates' Court to reopen his extradition trial, claiming he may face interrogation and possible mistreatment if returned to India. The hearing is scheduled for 23 November.

Modi, accused of defrauding Punjab National Bank (PNB) of over Rs 6,498 crore, has exhausted all legal avenues up to the UK Supreme Court. His petition reportedly hinges on fears of being interrogated by Indian agencies, which he alleges could lead to torture.

Indian authorities are expected to counter this claim by reiterating previous assurances given to the UK government: that Modi will not be questioned upon extradition and is only required to face trial.

"We have already filed the chargesheets. Investigations are nearly complete. Further questioning is not required," an Indian official said, adding that a written assurance may again be submitted if the UK court seeks confirmation.

Modi, 54, has been in custody in the UK since his arrest on an extradition warrant on March 19, 2019. His extradition was approved by then UK Home Secretary Priti Patel in April 2021.

The Indian government has assured UK authorities that if extradited, Modi will be housed in Barrack 12 of Mumbai's Arthur Road Jail — a secure facility with medical support, no overcrowding, and no risk of violence. Modi faces three criminal cases: a CBI probe for bank fraud, an ED case for alleged money laundering, and charges of evidence tampering. His multiple bail pleas have been rejected, with courts citing him as a significant flight risk. *—PTI*

HC grants bail to man accused of sharing 'Pak Zindabad' post

PRAYAGRAJ, 4 OCT

The Allahabad High Court has granted bail to Sajid Chaudhary, a Meerut resident, who spent months in custody for sharing a social media post allegedly praising Pakistan. Chaudhary had been detained since 13 May, 2025, under Section 152 of BNS, which deals with offences "endangering India's sovereignty."

Justice Santosh Rai, in a 25 September order, noted that while forwarding such a post might promote disharmony and could be punishable under BNS Section 196 for "promoting enmity," it did not justify the more severe Section 152 charge. Chaudhary's counsel argued that he had merely forwarded the post and had been falsely implicated. *—PTI*

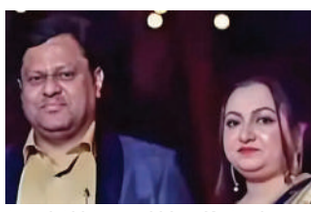
Nagpur hotelier, wife killed in Italy crash

NAGPUR, 4 OCT

A Nagpur-based hotelier and his wife died in a road accident in Italy on October 2, the last day of their family vacation. Their elder daughter is critically injured, while their two other children also sustained injuries, family members and officials said on Saturday.

Javed Akhtar, 57, owner of Gulshan Plaza Hotel in Civil Lines, and his wife Nadra were killed when their 9-seater taxi collided with another vehicle in Grosetto, Tuscany. The couple were on a 10-day tour of Italy and France with their children – Arzoo (22), Shifa (18), and Jazel (15).

Speaking to PTI, retired DSP Iqbal Azmi, a relative, said, "Arzoo is in critical condition and underwent surgery. She remains unconscious. Shifa and Jazel also suffered injuries but are stable. We spoke with Shifa over a video call. Two family members have flown to Italy. CM Devendra Fadnavis and the Maharashtra administration are assisting us."


Javed Akhtar and his wife Nadra **PHOTO: X**

Nagpur Collector Vipin Itankar confirmed that efforts are underway, in coordination with the Indian Embassy in Italy, to bring the bodies back.

District officials also visited the family's residence in Civil Lines. *—PTI*

Bihar hikes nurses' pay, doubles scholarships

PATNA, 4 OCT

The Bihar government has approved major welfare measures ahead of state assembly elections, including a hike in honorarium for contractual Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) workers in urban areas from Rs 11,500 to Rs 15,000 per month, with a 5 per cent annual increment to strengthen the vaccination drive. The cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, also doubled annual scholarships for general category students of Classes nine and 10 from Rs 1,800 to Rs 3,600, adding an estimated Rs 99.21 crore to the state budget. Other approvals include establishing the Bihar Film and Theatre Institute, building a five-star hotel in Patna, and integrated development of Gaya's Vishnupad temple area. Short-stay homes for women will be converted into Shakti Sadan centres for enhanced support. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PIXABAY

Pak drone spotted near J&K border, search launched

SAMBA/JAMMU, 4 OCT

Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir launched a major search operation after a Pakistani drone was sighted near the International Border in Samba district. The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) crossed over from the Pakistani side and hovered over Nanga village in the Ramgarh sector late Friday evening, officials said. Police and security teams were immediately deployed to search the area for any air-dropped payloads, including weapons or narcotics. The operation is ongoing, and security has been heightened in adjoining border villages as a precautionary measure. Residents expressed concern over the drone sighting, prompting authorities to maintain a high alert in the region. Officials emphasised vigilance along the International Border to prevent potential infiltration or smuggling attempts, while the search continues. *—PTI*

Calcutta HC backs BJP's protest rally over rain deaths

KOLKATA, 4 OCT

The Calcutta High Court has permitted a BJP-backed organisation, Khola Hawa, to hold a protest rally on Sunday over 12 rain-related deaths in the city last month, overturning Kolkata Police's earlier refusal. Police had denied permission, citing a clash with the Durga Pooja carnival. On a petition, a vacation bench of Justice Biswaroop Chowdhury directed the rally be allowed at Dorina Crossing, with several restrictions. The demonstration must not exceed 3,000 participants and will run from 2pm to 5pm. The court also instructed that the route be modified to avoid disruption to immersion processions and carnival tableaux. The court emphasised that the Durga Pooja festivities could not prevent peaceful protest, while ensuring public order and minimal disruption during the city's major cultural event. *—PTI*

Postal services resume in Manipur after 2 years

CHURACHANDPUR, 4 OCT

Postal services have restarted in Manipur's Churachandpur district for the first time since ethnic violence erupted in May 2023, officials confirmed. A mail van reached the district headquarters at 11.30am on Friday, delivered letters and parcels, and returned to Imphal at 12.40pm. Postal operations had been suspended for over a year amid the unrest, which left more than 260 people dead and thousands displaced. The resumption of mail delivery marks a vital step towards restoring normalcy and rebuilding communication links in the violence-affected region. *—PTI*

Some stealing Karpoori's Jan Nayak title: PM

Modi take a veil jibe at Rahul; Unveils initiatives worth over Rs 62,000 ahead of Bihar polls

NEW DELHI, 4 OCT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday blamed the "devastated state of education" during the RJD rule as a major reason for the large-scale migration from Bihar and lauded the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government for improving the situation and setting the state on a path to progress.

Speaking at the inauguration of a host of education and skilling initiatives for the youth, including several projects for the poll-bound state, Modi took a veiled swipe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is often lauded by his party members as 'Jan Nayak', an honorific associated with respected OBC leader and former Bihar chief minister Karpoori Thakur.

The people of Bihar should be vigilant to attempts by some to "steal" the honour long associated with Thakur, Modi said, without naming Gandhi.

Thakur was not bestowed the title of Jan Nayak by social media trolls, but it is a reflection of people's love for him, he added.

The Modi government had honoured the late OBC leader with Bharat Ratna last year.

Modi also unveiled various youth-focused initiatives worth more than Rs 62,000 crore, with a special emphasis on Bihar, which is likely to go to polls by the end of October or November.

Modi launched PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Trans formation through Upgraded ITIs), a centrally sponsored scheme with an investment of Rs 60,000 crore.

Praising Chief Minister Kumar, Modi said the Bihar government has taken new resolves for the state's development and has decided to double the number of people getting employment in the next five years as compared to the last 20 years.

The idea is to ensure that youngsters of Bihar are employed within the state, he said, with the issue of migration gaining in sapience during the ongoing assembly poll campaign.

Modi remarked that reviving a tree whose roots have been infested is a formidable feat, and likened the condition of Bihar under the opposition's misgovernance to such a tree. *—PTI*

PM Narendra Modi with Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge) Jayant Chaudhary during the launch of various youth-focused initiatives, in New Delhi **PHOTO: PTI**

- The people of Bihar should be vigilant to attempts by some to "steal" the honour long associated with Thakur, Modi said, without naming Gandhi.

Cong claims deleted votes in Bihar exceed victory margins

NEW DELHI, 4 OCT

Alleging several irregularities in the final voters list in Bihar, the Congress on Saturday claimed that the number of voter names deleted exceeds the victory margin of the last assembly election in some constituencies.

The opposition party also alleged that the Election Commission (EC) was a "puppet" in the hands of the ruling party and had conducted the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar with the purpose of providing political advantage to the BJP and its allies.

In a post on X, Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh fired a fresh salvo at the EC, saying it should act impartially and not as the "B-team" of BJP.

He also cited news reports claiming that there are 247 people in a single house in Jamui in Bihar, and alleged that there are several irregularities in the final electoral roll list after the SIR exercise.

"The Election Commission has orchestrated the entire SIR drama at the behest of the BJP. Even the claims of reforms by the Election Commission in the final SIR are proving to be wrong.

"Reports are coming in from all regions of Bihar that confirm the sole purpose of the entire process is to provide political advantage to the BJP and its allied parties," he claimed in his post in Hindi.

Even after the SIR process, numerous instances of irregularities in the final list indicate that the EC has no regard for the clear orders of the Supreme Court, he alleged.

The Congress has been accusing the EC of conducting the SIR with an aim of deleting votes of Congress supporters and had even approached the Supreme Court, along with other parties to stop the exercise. *—PTI*

The (NDA) government formed through vote chori is also 'zameen chor, munafa khor (profiteer) and bachat chor' (revenue thief)

-Kanhaiya Kumar, Congress leader

Vishwakarma named new Gujarat BJP Chief

GANDHINAGAR, 4 OCT

Gujarat Minister and OBC leader Jagdish Vishwakarma has been appointed as the new president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) state unit, succeeding Union Minister CR Paatil. The announcement was made by Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, the party's election officer, at the party headquarters 'Kamalam' in Gandhinagar.

Vishwakarma, aged 52, is a three-time MLA representing the Nikol constituency in Ahmedabad and was the sole candidate to submit nomination papers for the leadership role. He currently serves as the Minister of State for co-operation, salt industries, MSME, cottage, khadi, and rural industries.

Before the announcement, Vishwakarma led a rally of party workers from his residence in Ahmedabad's Thakkar bapanagar. Expressing gratitude to the party's leadership, he stated, "The BJP's vision for the country, its cultural nationalist commitment, is made up of the best citizens, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah." He emphasised that the BJP is synonymous with development and urged all workers to collaboratively strive towards "a developed Gujarat and a strong BJP".

Outgoing president CR Paatil reflected on the BJP's recent successes, including winning 156 out of 182 seats in the 2022 assembly elections and 25 out of 26 Lok Sabha seats in 2024. He expressed confidence in the party's future, stating, "We are confident of winning all 182 seats in the coming election."

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel noted that technology plays a crucial role in progress and affirmed Vishwakarma's capabilities in this area. *—PTI*

Pak, protesters sign agreement to end violent protests in PoK

NEW DELHI/ ISLAMABAD, 4 OCT

A day after India slammed Pakistan for its oppressive approach, the Shebaz Shriff government signed an agreement to end the ongoing demonstrations in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

The deal was signed between the protesters and the government after days of unrest had left 10 dead and hundreds injured.

The unrest began on 29 September after negotiations between officials and the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC), representing the protesters, broke down.

In response to the escalating violence, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif dispatched a high-level delegation led by former Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf to Muzaffarabad. After two days of extensive discussions, an agreement consisting of 25 points was finalised, which includes providing compensation for the families of those deceased and the registration of cases regarding incidents of violence. The government also pledged to enhance infrastructure and healthcare in the region.

"Violence has marred the peace of the region," said Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, announcing the agreement on social media. "The protesters are returning to their homes."

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee president, Tariq Karra, condemned "politics of harassment and oppression" in PoK, asserting that it is an integral part of India. *—PTI*

The violence disrupted the region's peace following a strike **PHOTO: ANI**

Delhi may turn Kejri's bungalow to guesthouse

NEW DELHI, 4 OCT

The Delhi government is planning to convert the bungalow at 6 Flagstaff Road in Civil Lines, which was renovated for former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and had been the focus of corruption allegations, into a state guest house with a cafeteria, senior officials said on Saturday.

The proposed facility would include a food outlet serving traditional cuisine, a parking area, a waiting hall, and other amenities. It is expected to function like other state guest houses, where visiting officials and ministers pay for accommodation.

Currently, around ten staff members maintain the bungalow, carrying out daily cleaning and upkeep of electrical equipment. In recent months, Delhi government has considered several options for repurposing the residence, which had attracted criticism for its lavish renovation during Kejriwal's tenure. *—PTI*

'I LOVE MUHAMMED STIR'

SP delegation barred from visiting Bareilly

LUCKNOW/BAREILLY, 4 OCT

Authorities in Bareilly on Saturday razed the banquet hall owned by a man arrested in connection with the recent violence in the city, while police stopped a delegation of Samajwadi Party leaders from visiting the city.

The Bareilly Development Authority (BDA) said the portion of 'Raza Palace' that was demolished was built in violation of norms.

The banquet hall was owned by Dr Nafees, who is also considered to be a close aide of cleric Tauzeer Raza Khan, and has already been arrested and sent to jail in connection with the recent clashes linked to the 'I love Muhammad' campaign.

Officials asserted the demolitions were carried out as per procedure and no individual was targeted.

Alleged encroachments by 15 shops in the Sailani area of the city were removed by the Bareilly municipal corporation on Saturday, its officials said.

Bareilly has been tense after protesters opposing FIRs over "I Love Muhammad" posters clashed with police following Friday prayers, after they were not permitted to hold a demonstration.

Several people were injured in the violence. *—PTI*

Sena leader's claim on Bal's death ignites row

MUMBAI/PUNE, 4 OCT

A major political row has erupted after senior Shiv Sena leader Ramdas Kadam claimed that Bal Thackeray's death was announced two days after he had actually passed away, and alleged his fingerprints were taken posthumously.

Bal Thackeray, founder of Shiv Sena, died on November 17, 2012, aged 86. Kadam made the sensational claim during the Shiv Sena's Dussehra rally, intensifying tensions between the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT).

Ramdas Kadam and Anil Parab **PHOTO: ANI**

Reacting sharply, Uddhav Thackeray called Kadam a "gaddar" (traitor) and "namak haram" (disloyal), refusing to dignify the claims with a response. Sena (UBT) leader Anil Parab said the party would file a defamation suit against Kadam, adding any damages won would go to rain-hit farmers.

Kadam responded by demanding a CBI probe and said he would write to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. He also denied allegations regarding his wife's death in 1993, calling it a tragic accident, and said he would sue Parab for defamation.

Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut dismissed Kadam as untrustworthy, pointing out he was promoted within the party despite limited contributions. He accused Kadam of making degrading statements for personal and political gain.

Kadam's son is currently Minister of State for Home in the Mahayuti government.

Parab claimed the remarks were a ploy to distract from the ruling faction's failures ahead of the BMC polls, while Raut said such allegations show the depths people will sink to for power. *—PTI*

STARMER TO VISIT INDIA ON 8 OCT

India, UK eye quantum computing tie-up

LONDON, 4 OCT

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer will embark on a two-day visit to India from October 8 to 9, marking his first official trip to the country since assuming office in July last year.

Starmer will hold wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Mumbai on October 9, with discussions expected to focus on the India–UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership under the 'Vision 2035' roadmap. The two leaders will also engage with top business and industry leaders, particularly around the India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), a cornerstone of the future bilateral economic relationship.

Keir Starmer **PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA**

Ahead of the visit, a key area of collaboration has emerged in the form of a research partnership between Imperial College London and IIT Bombay, aimed at using quantum computing and biotechnology to help farmers grow more climate-resilient crops. The project, part of the India–UK Technology Security Initiative (TSI), focuses on modelling soil microbe–plant interactions to improve agricultural resilience in arid regions.

The TSI, signed last year, will be high on the agenda when Starmer joins PM Modi at the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2025 in Mumbai.

Imperial College, recently ranked the world's second-best university, has deepened ties with India by establishing a hub in Bengaluru. The university has also applied to set up Imperial Global India as a liaison office to facilitate future collaborations, pending regulatory approvals.

Imperial's President, Prof Hugh Brady, and other top academics will be part of Starmer's delegation.

The UK–India trade pact, signed in July during Modi's visit to London, aims to double bilateral trade by 2030 and includes provisions to cut tariffs on British goods such as whisky and cars. *—PTI*

BJP reaches out to Vijay days after stampede

KARUR, 4 OCT

The BJP has reached out to Tamil superstar Vijay's party, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam(TVK), following the tragic stampede at his Karur rally on 27 September, which claimed 41 lives and injured over 60. The BJP is reportedly seeking to build ties with Vijay ahead of the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, seeing an opportunity to harness his widespread popularity.

A senior BJP leader is said to have assured the TVK that Vijay would not be left to face the ruling DMK's criticism alone. While the DMK has blamed the TVK for the tragedy, the BJP has accused the state government of poor crowd management. Meanwhile, National SC/ST Commission chairperson Kishore Makwana visited the venue in Velusamypuram to review the situation. Officials informed the commission that 13 of the victims were from Scheduled Castes, including seven from the Arunthathiyar community. —Agencies

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

US govt shutdown extends by 1 week as vote fails

WASHINGTON, 4 OCT

Efforts to end the government shutdown faltered again in the Senate as Democrats remained steadfast during a critical vote. On the third day of the shutdown, a Republican bill aimed at reopening the government failed with a 54-44 vote, falling short of the 60 needed to overcome a filibuster. Senate Majority Leader John Thune remarked, "I don't know how many times you're going to give them a chance to vote no." Democrats are demanding extended healthcare benefits, citing concerns over increased premiums, while Republicans have vowed to hold firm until the government reopens. The White House said that President Donald Trump views the shutdown as an "unprecedented opportunity" to implement cuts. *—PTI*

4 killed as US bombs another Venezuelan ship

WASHINGTON, 4 OCT

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth announced a military strike on a boat near Venezuela, which he accused of drug trafficking, marking the Trump administration's expanded conflict with cartels. Hegseth claimed the "vessel was trafficking narcotics" and described those aboard as "narco-terrorists," noting four casualties but withholding further identification. President Trump claimed the boat was "loaded with enough drugs to kill 25 to 50 thousand people." Meanwhile, Colombian President Gustavo Petro accused the US of "murder," arguing the real drug traffickers reside in the US, Europe, and Dubai. Four strikes have been executed, resulting in 21 deaths, amid a significant US naval presence in the Caribbean. *—PTI*

Petrochemical surge in India to test Asian mkt

NEW DELHI, 4 OCT

India is poised to emerge as a major force in the petrochemicals sector, a shift that could deepen supply imbalances across Asia, according to S&P Global Ratings. The agency said India's extensive expansion plans, similar to China's earlier strategy, aim to reduce dependence on imports of essential chemicals used in packaging, plastics, and auto components. As the world's third-largest consumer of chemicals, India's push for self-sufficiency is expected to continue, with public sector investments valued at about US$25 billion. S&P credit analyst Ker Liang Chan said India's capacity additions "will increase competition within the broader Asian industry." S&P warned that the resulting overcapacity, compounded by weak global demand, could erode exporters' earnings and trigger consolidation. *—ANI*

RBI open for future rate cuts, says report

KOLKATA, 4 OCT

A recent report by Crisil Intelligence indicates that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is open to future rate cuts, following a downward revision of its inflation forecast by its monetary policy committee (MPC). The RBI maintained its policy interest rate at 5.5 per cent for the second consecutive meeting on 1 October, citing concerns over tariff uncertainties. The report highlights that GDP growth may face downside risks in the latter half of the financial year 2025-26, primarily due to the impact of US tariffs. However, the recent rationalisation of GST rates is expected to mitigate some of these effects. "Certain labour-intensive sectors are most vulnerable to the impact of US tariffs and need policy support," stated the report. *—PTI*

Israel kills 20 in Gaza after Trump asks them to stop

IDF: Will make preparations for first phase of peace plan

TOKYO, 4 OCT

Just hours after US President Donald Trump urged Israel to halt its bombing of Gaza following partial acceptance of his ceasefire plan by Hamas, Israeli strikes killed at least 20 Palestinians, Gaza's Health Ministry said Saturday.

While Israel's military announced it was preparing to implement the first phase of Trump's plan, it simultaneously warned that northern Gaza remains a "combat zone" and advised residents to move south. A senior official confirmed Israel has shifted to a defensive posture in the Strip, with no immediate troop withdrawal.

People look at the destroyed Gaza Strip, after Israeli shelling on Saturday
PHOTO: PTI

Despite the shift, the war's toll continues to mount. Gaza's Health Ministry updated its verified death toll to over 67,000 Palestinians, with women and children making up about half. The humanitarian crisis has deepened, with much of Gaza's population displaced and large areas rendered uninhabitable. UN officials reported families sheltering in hospital parking lots, unable to afford relocation.

Meanwhile, Hamas voiced concerns over Trump's plan. Officials say they need more time to locate remains of hostages and are demanding decisions about Gaza's governance be made by all Palestinian factions. Hamas also rejected the idea of foreign forces administering Gaza, calling such moves "unacceptable."

On the international front, mass protests erupted across Europe. Tens of thousands marched in Barcelona, Madrid, Rome and Lisbon against the ongoing Israeli offensive.

The demonstrations intensified after Israeli forces intercepted a humanitarian aid flotilla that had departed from Barcelona, aiming to break the Gaza blockade. Among the 450 activists removed from the ships were over 40 Spaniards, including a former Barcelona mayor.

The war nears its second anniversary since Hamas' 7 October, 2023, attack, which left 1,200 Israelis dead and triggered Israel's devastating retaliation. —PTI

DRONES HIT POWER GRID

Russia kills 30 on Ukrainian train

KYIV, 4 OCT

A Russian strike hit a passenger train in Ukraine's northern Sumy region killing at least 30 people, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

"The Russians could not have been unaware that they were striking civilians," Zelenskyy wrote on X.

Russian drones and missiles also pounded Ukraine's power grid overnight into Saturday, a Ukrainian energy firm said, a day after Moscow's biggest attack on Ukrainian natural gas facilities.

The strike had damaged energy facilities near Chernihiv, a northern city close to the Russian border, and sparked blackouts set to affect some 50,000 households, according to regional operator Chernihivoblenergo.

Russia fired 381 drones and 35 missiles at Ukraine on Friday, according to Ukraine's air force, in what officials said was an attempt to wreck the Ukrainian power grid ahead of winter.

Naftogaz's chief executive, Serhii Koretskyi, said Friday the attacks had no military purpose, while Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko accused Moscow of "terrorising civilians."

Overnight into Saturday, Russian forces launched a further 109 drones and three ballistic missiles at Ukraine. It said 73 of the drones were shot down or sent off course.

—Salar News with agencies

Takaichi likely to become Japan's 1st female PM

TOKYO, 4 OCT

Japan's governing party on Saturday elected former economic security minister Sanae Takaichi as its new leader, making her likely to become the country's first female Prime Minister.

Takaichi beat Agriculture Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, the son of popular former prime minister Junichiro Koizumi, in a runoff in an intraparty vote by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

The 64-year-old is an ultra-Conservative star of a male-dominated party that critics call an obstacle to women's advancement. She admires former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher and is a proponent of former prime minister Shinzo Abe's Conservative vision for Japan.

First elected to parliament from her hometown of Nara in 1993, she has served in key party and government posts, including minister of economic security, internal affairs and gender equality.

Sanae Takaichi
PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

A drummer in a heavy-metal band and a motorbike rider as a student, Takaichi has called for a stronger military, more fiscal spending for growth, promotion of nuclear fusion, cybersecurity and tougher policies on immigration.—*PTI*

'FREAK OFF' CASE

Diddy gets 4 years for prostitution

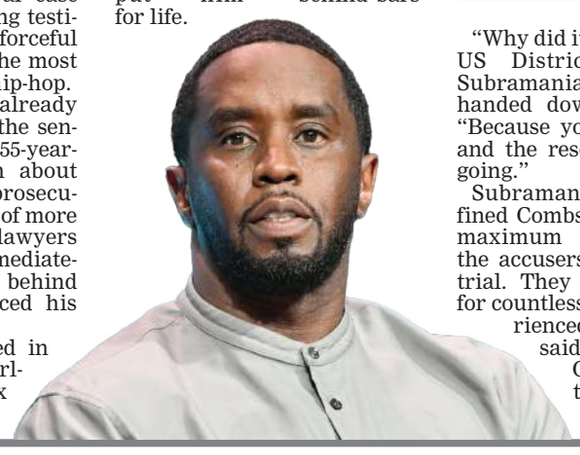
NEW YORK, 4 OCT

Sean 'Diddy' Combs was sentenced Friday to four years and two months in prison for transporting people across state lines for sexual encounters, capping a federal case that featured harrowing testimony and ended in a forceful reckoning for one of the most influential figures in hip-hop.

Since Combs has already served a year in jail, the sentence means that the 55-year-old could get out in about three years. While prosecutors sought a sentence of more than 11 years, his lawyers wanted him freed immediately and said the time behind bars has already forced his remorse and sobriety.

Combs was convicted in July of flying his girlfriends and male sex workers around the country to engage in drug-fuelled sexual encounters in multiple places and over many years. However, he was acquitted of sex trafficking and racketeering charges that could have put him behind bars for life.

- Combs' nearly two-month trial in a federal court in Manhattan featured testimony from women who said Combs beat, threatened, sexually assaulted and blackmailed them. One of his ex-girlfriends said he forced her to have sex hundreds of men in 'freak-offs'



"Why did it happen so long?" US District Judge Arun Subramanian asked as he handed down the sentence. "Because you had the power and the resources to keep it going."

Subramanian, who also fined Combs USD 500,000, the maximum allowed, praised the accusers who testified at trial. They effectively spoke for countless others who experienced abuse, the judge said.

Combs' nearly two-month trial in a federal court in Manhattan featured testimony from women who said Combs beat, threatened, sexually assaulted and blackmailed them.

During testimony at the trial, former girlfriend Casandra "Cassie" Ventura told jurors that Combs ordered her to have "disgusting" sex with strangers hundreds of times during their decade-long relationship. Jurors saw video of him dragging and beating her in a Los Angeles hotel hallway after one such "freak-off." —*PTI*

Rs 1.84L cr assets lying unclaimed with banks, regulators, says FM

AHMEDABAD, 4 OCT

Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** on Saturday said financial assets worth Rs 1.84 lakh crore were lying unclaimed with banks and regulators, and officials need to ensure these reach the rightful owners.

Sitharaman launched the three-month Apki Poonji, Apka Adhikar (Your Money, Your Right) campaign from Gandhinagar in the presence of Gujarat Finance Minister Kanubhai Desai and senior officials from the banks and the finance ministry.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs said that financial assets worth Rs 1.84 lakh crore were lying unclaimed with banks and regulators in the form of bank deposits, insurance, provident fund or shares.

She urged officials to work on three As — Awareness, Access and Action — to ensure these unclaimed assets reach rightful owners during the three-month-long campaign.

"Unclaimed monies are lying with the banks or with the RBI or with the IEPF (Investor Education and Protection Fund). We have to find the rightful owners and claimants of those funds and hand the money over to them," Sitharaman said.

If the asset remains unclaimed for a long time due to any reason, it gets transferred from one entity to another, the minister said.

On the 'awareness' front, the minister urged government and bank officials to create awareness among people so that they come forward and claim their rightful assets, such as insurance policies lying unclaimed despite maturity. —*PTI*

Tata Capital IPO anchor book draws Rs 4,642 cr

NEW DELHI, 4 OCT

Tata Capital, the non-banking financial company, has successfully secured Rs 4,642 crore from 68 institutional investors ahead of its much-anticipated Rs 15,512 crore public offering, which opens from 6 to 8 October. The anchor book was oversubscribed by nearly five times.

Notable participants in the anchor round included the Life Insurance Corporation of India, ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund, and Morgan Stanley, highlighting the widespread appeal of Tata Capital's financial services model. The firm allotted 14.24 crore equity shares to these investors at Rs 326 each, raising a substantial Rs 4,642 crore.

Market sources indicated that strong demand meant investors did not receive their desired stakes and had to settle for limited subscriptions. At the upper end of the price band, Tata Capital is valued at approximately Rs 1.38 lakh crore. The proceeds will be directed towards strengthening the company's Tier-1 capital base for future lending.

Tata Capital is set to debut on the stock market on 13 October. —*PTI*

Flipkart, Amazon under govt lens over platform fee

BENGALURU, 4 OCT

The Centre has launched an investigation into the two major e-commerce platforms, Amazon and Flipkart, after several customers complained about the hike in platform fee to Rs 100, sources said.

According to sources, the Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Prahlad Joshi, on Friday said that strict action would be taken against any companies that are found violating consumer rights.

Joshi in a post on X said, "The Department of Consumer Affairs has received complaints against e-commerce platforms charging extra for Cash-on-Delivery, a practice classified as a 'dark pattern' that misleads and exploits consumers."

Emphasising zero tolerance against unfair trading, he added, "A detailed investigation has been initiated and steps are being taken to scrutinize these platforms closely. Strict action will be taken against those violating consumer rights to ensure transparency and uphold fair practices in India's growing e-commerce sector."

This comment comes amid the ongoing festival sale promoted by the e-commerce platforms, sources said. —*Agencies*

SEBI is not mulling regulatory rules for family offices

MUMBAI, 4 OCT

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has dismissed recent media reports suggesting that it plans to bring private family offices under regulatory oversight.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the market regulator described the reports as "factually incorrect" and clarified that "no such proposal is currently under examination." The clarification followed speculation that SEBI was considering a framework to supervise family offices, which manage the substantial personal wealth of ultra-high-net-worth (UHNW) families.

Family offices are private entities offering comprehensive services such as investment management, tax planning, estate planning and philanthropy. Their primary objective is to preserve and grow family wealth across generations.

In India, family offices have been gaining prominence among established business families and successful startup founders seeking structured and professional wealth management.

A recent EY–Julius Baer report highlighted a shift in strategy within the sector, noting that while a quarter of Indian family offices still prioritise wealth preservation, many are diversifying into global and alternative assets to enhance long-term returns. —*ANI*

'PUTS ICE AGENTS AT RISK'

Apple, Google block apps that crowdsource ICE sightings

NEW YORK, 4 OCT

- Joshua Aaron said he launched the app in April as a way to help immigrant communities protect themselves from surprise raids or potential harassment.

Apple and Google blocked downloads of phone apps that flag sightings of US immigration agents, just hours after the Trump administration demanded that one particularly popular iPhone app be taken down.

US Attorney General Pam Bondi said such tracking puts Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers at risk. But users and developers of the apps say it's their First Amendment right to capture what ICE is doing in their neighborhoods — and maintain that most users turn to these platforms in an effort to protect their own safety as President Donald Trump steps up aggressive immigration enforcement across the country.

ICEBlock, the most widely used of the ICE-tracking apps in Apple's app store, is among the apps that have been taken down. Bondi said her office reached out to Apple on Thursday "demanding that they remove ICEBlock" and claiming that it "is designed to put ICE agents at risk just for doing their jobs."

Apple soon complied, sending an email Thursday to the app's creator, Joshua Aaron, that said it would block further downloads of the app because new information "provided to Apple by law enforcement" showed the app broke the app store rules.

Downloads of apps like ICEBlock have surged since Trump took office for his second term earlier this year.

Aaron said he launched the app in April as a way to help immigrant communities protect themselves from surprise raids or potential harassment.

Google followed their move, saying that several similar apps violated their policies for Android platforms. —*PTI*

PHOTO: X/@CO

Gauff thrashed by Anisimova in China Open semis

BEIJING, 4 OCT

Defending champion Coco Gauff was thrashed 6-1, 6-2 by third seed Amanda Anisimova in the China Open semi-finals on Saturday. Wimbledon and US Open finalist Anisimova took just 58 minutes to cruise past her American compatriot and will play Pegula or Linda Noskova in Sunday's final. Anisimova has climbed to world number four during a stellar season and showed her class in dismantling French Open champion Gauff. She lost just five points on her first serve in Beijing and won the first five games of the match in a dominant display. "I was able to put on a really good performance," Anisimova said. I knew I was going to have to play really well against Coco if I wanted to get the win, and I'm really excited to be in the final.—*PTI*

Irani Cup 2025: Vidarbha inches closer to third title

NEW DELHI, 4 OCT

Vidarbha displayed its fighting instincts in plenty as its lower order virtually shut the door on Rest of India on Day 4 of the Irani Cup encounter against Rest of India at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium, Jamtha, on Saturday. Thanks to captain Akshay Wadkar's rescue act along with the tail, Vidarbha prevented RoI from clawing its way back into the team by setting up a stiff target of 361 in four sessions on a pitch that has rapidly turned into a spinner's paradise. In yet another rain-curtailed last session, Aditya Thakare exposed Aryan Juyal's defence with a peach that crashed into middle- and off-stump before left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey trapped Abhimanyu Easwaran in front of the wickets with an arm ball.—*PTI*

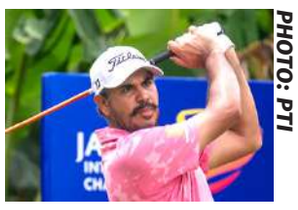


PHOTO: PTI

Gaganjeet Bhullar stays on track for Jakarta success

JAKARTA, 4 OCT

Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar carded a one-under 69 to grab a share of the three-way lead with Wade Ormsby (67) of Australia and Scott Vincent (62) of Zimbabwe, going into the final round of the Jakarta International Championship, here Saturday. Bhullar, a five-time winner in Indonesia, was left to rue one costly mistake on the ninth hole, when he double bogeyed the hole despite sitting in the middle of the fairway after another perfect drive. The leaders are just one ahead of the Thai pair of Sadom Kaewkanjana (64) and Poom Saksansin (66), with compatriot Pavit Tangkamolprasert.—*PTI*

Veteran football administrator NK Bhatia is dead

NEW DELHI, 4 OCT

Delhi's veteran football administrator NK Bhatia died on Saturday after a prolonged illness. Bhatia had been suffering from age-related complications and was admitted to the intensive care unit of a city hospital. Bhatia, who was the vice-president of Football Delhi, has worked tirelessly for the betterment of the sport in the national capital and has held the post of secretary of the erstwhile Delhi Soccer Association (DSA), often representing the body in the national federation meetings. He has held various positions in the standing committees of the All India Football Federation (AIFF).—*PTI*

India register dominating win over WI

Hosts crushed West Indies by an innings and 140 runs in first Test to take a 1-0 lead

AHMEDABAD, 4 OCT

Fiery bowling performances from Ravindra Jadeja and Mohammed Siraj helped India defeat West Indies by an innings and 140 runs in the first Test at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

India declared on their overnight score of 448 for five and then blew away the Windies for a paltry 146 in their second innings to go 1-0 up in the two-match series. Siraj and Jadeja were the lead bowlers for India. The pacer also completed a seven-wicket match haul, continuing his fine recent form. Alick Athanaze, 38, was the top scorer for the visitors, followed by Justin Greaves, 25, but those knocks did not help their cause. 3/31, 4/54 Vice-captain Ravindra Jadeja, India's most valuable player in red ball cricket ran displayed his all-round credentials capping his unbeaten hundred with a four-wicket haul as the hosts crushed West Indies by an innings and 140 runs inside three days in the first Test to take a 1-0 lead.

The second Test will be played in New Delhi from 10-14 October. "Honestly, I think this was the perfect game for us. Three centuries, and we fielded really well, so no complaints," skipper Shubman Gill said at the post-match presentation ceremony. If it was a lively track assisting pacers on Day One, exploited to the tilt by Mohammed Siraj (4/40 and 3/31) and Jasprit Bumrah (3/42), the pitch offered a little to bowlers on Day Two as batters made merry. Opener KL Rahul (100) ended his nine-year-long century drought at home, wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel (125) notched his maiden Test ton, and Jadeja (104 not out) stretched his purple patch with the bat as India flexed batting muscle, condemning the West Indies for the hard grind to take wickets.

While Nitish Reddy's athleticism handed Siraj the first wicket among pacers, it was Jadeja (4/54) who followed up his unbeaten ton with a three-wicket burst to initiate a swift end to the West Indies' plight, reducing them to 66/5 at lunch. While the left-arm spinner wreaked havoc in that frail batting order, which fell like a pack of cards once again, Kuldeep Yadav (1/15) and Siraj (1/16) also had their share of contributions. Openers Tagenarine Chanderpaul (8) and John Campbell began on a positive note, but it was the brilliance of Nitish Reddy at square leg which produced the first breakthrough in the eighth over.

Brief Scores: India 448 for 5 (Jurel 125, Jadeja 104*, Rahul Chase 2-90) beat West Indies 162 (Greaves 32, Siraj 4-40, Bumrah 3-42) and 146 (Athanaze 38, Jadeja 4-54, Siraj 3-31) by an innings and 140 runs. —*PTI*

It was a perfect game for us: Gill

India captain Shubman Gill brushed aside his poor luck at the toss, saying he could not have asked for a better all-round performance from his team after they hammered the West Indies by an innings and 140 runs to take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series. I think this was the perfect game for us.

Ravindra Jadeja 104* & 4/54 *PHOTO: PTI*

Mohammed Siraj *PHOTO: PTI*

BCCI announces India's T20I squad for Australia

NEW DELHI, 4 OCT

The Board of Control for Cricket in India, BCCI, announced the squad for a three-match One-Day International series against Australia on Saturday.

Suryakumar Yadav will lead the squad, with Shubman Gill once again named his deputy.

Hardik Pandya, who wasn't available for the Asia Cup 2025 final due to a quadricep injury, has been rested, and Nitish Kumar Reddy replaces him in the squad. "He won't be fit for the Australia series due to the injury he picked up ahead of the final. He will undergo rehab at the Centre of Excellence, CoE, and only then will we know, " chief selector, Ajit Agarkar, said. —*PTI*

INDIA TOUR OF AUSTRALIA

In October-November, starting with a three-match ODI and T20I series series. On 19 October in Perth, 23 October in Adelaide, and 25 October in Sydney. The tour will then shift to a five-match T20I series, running from 29 October to 8 November.

- India's T20I squad: Suryakumar Yadav, C, Abhishek Sharma, Shubman Gill, VC, Tilak Varma, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jitesh Sharma, WK, Varun Chakaravarthy, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Sanju Samson, Rinku Singh, Washington Sundar

Rohit, Virat return for Australia ODIs

In a significant transition move, the Indian selectors on Saturday removed Rohit Sharma from ODI captaincy and expectedly handed over the reins to young Shubman Gill, keeping the 2027 World Cup in mind.

Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli will make their much-anticipated return to international cricket during India's upcoming tour of Australia later this month. The two stalwarts, who stepped away from T20Is and Tests earlier this year

Virat and Rohit *PHOTO: PTI*

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

India expected to test squad depth against Pakistan

COLOMBO, 4 OCT

India vs Pakistan Match starts at 3.00 pm IST

A battle high on emotional quotient and less on cricketing acumen will feature India as overwhelming favourites against a dishevelled Pakistan trying to find balance and rhythm in a Women's World Cup game amid continuing geopolitical tensions between the two bitter neighbours. After three Sundays of India-Pakistan men's Asia Cup matches, it's time for the women to take center stage, though the record suggests little suspense about the outcome. India and Pakistan have played 27 times in women's internationals across formats. India holds a commanding 24-3 advantage, with Pakistan's three wins coming only in T20 cricket.

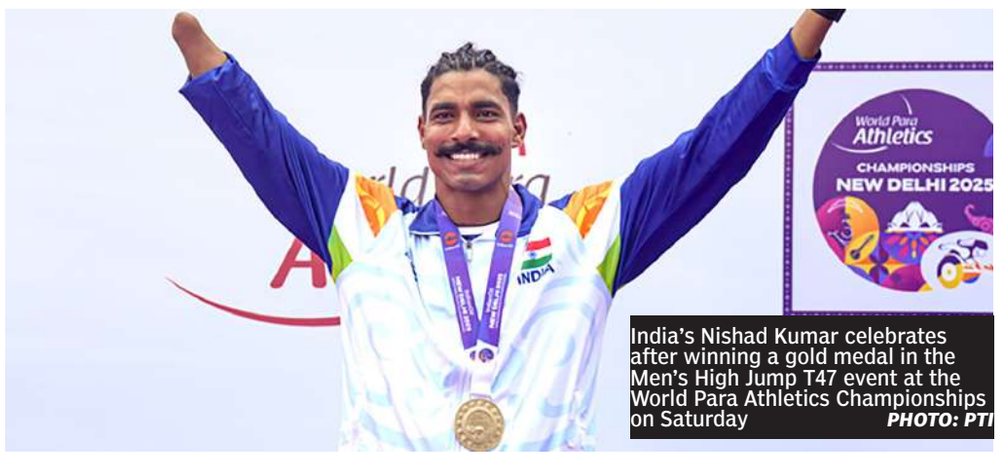
In ODIs, India has a 100 per cent record, winning all 11 matches between the two sides.

Both teams began their World Cup campaigns in contrasting fashion. Hosts India defeated Sri Lanka by 59 runs.

Rain forces abandonment of Sri Lanka's match against Australia

Incessant rain forced the abandonment of the Women's World Cup match between Sri Lanka and Australia here on Saturday.

In fact, even the toss could not take place as rain lashed several parts of the city. Both Australia and Sri Lanka shared a point each from the game. The Aussies now lead the table with three points from two games, and the home side is placed fifth on the table with a point from two matches. In their next assignment, Australia will face Pakistan here on 8 October, while the Lankans will be up against England at the R. Premadasa Stadium. Colombo is set to host the much-anticipated match between India and Pakistan on Sunday, and the weather prediction is for scattered showers and a 99 percent cloudy day. Australia came into this contest on the back of a dominant 89-run victory over New Zealand in their opening fixture. —*PTI*



India's Nishad Kumar celebrates after winning a gold medal in the Men's High Jump T47 event at the World Para Athletics Championships on Saturday *PHOTO: PTI*

Tasnim, Shriyanshi to clash in all-Indian final at Al Ain Masters

AL AIN, 4 OCT

Kidambi Srikanth's run ended in the semifinals, but rising shuttlers Tasnim Mir and Shriyanshi Valishetty set up an all-Indian women's singles summit clash with contrasting wins at the USD 120,000 Al Ain Masters Super 100 tournament here on Saturday.

The 20-year-old Tasnim, a former BWF World Junior No. 1, rallied to beat Turkey's fifth seed Neslihan Arin 9-21 21-17 21-10, while seventh seed Shriyanshi outclassed Indonesia's Chiara Marvella Handoyo 21-11 21-12 at the Khalifa bin Zayed Stadium.

It will be a maiden final appearance for both the Indians. Srikanth, the 2021 World Championships silver medallist, failed to sustain momentum and went down 4-21 21-11 19-21 to Malaysia's Sholeh Aidil in a 50-minute semifinal battle.

In men's doubles, the Indian pair of Hariharan Amsakarunan and M R Arjun overcame Singapore's Eng Keat Wesley Koh and Junsuke Kubo 20-22, 21-1,4, 21-16 in 52 minutes. —*PTI*

MOTOGP: MARCO BEZZECCHI WINS INDONESIAN SPRINT

NEW DELHI, 6 JUNE

Aprilia's Marco Bezzecchi staged a sensational comeback to win the Indonesian Grand Prix sprint on Saturday, overtaking Gresini Racing's 20-year-old rookie Fermin Aldeguer on the final lap at the Mandalika International Street Circuit. Bezzecchi, who started from pole position, made a disastrous start and dropped several places before the 26-year-old Italian rallied to secure his third sprint win in MotoGP.

"It was a fantastic race. Unfortunately, we have to understand what happened at the start because I lost a lot of time. But afterwards, I was so confident, so fast," Bezzecchi said. "Fermin was already gone, so I didn't expect to catch him. But I didn't give up, and it was fantastic, I'm destroyed! It was incredible in the last lap. —*PTI*

Bezzecchi *PHOTO: X/@ MARCO*

Manish, Vaishnavi emerge champions in Fenesta Open

NEW DELHI, 4 OCT

Tamil Nadu's Manish Sureshkumar and Vaishnavi Adkar of Maharashtra clinched the men's and women's singles titles respectively in the Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship here on Saturday.

In the men's singles final, Manish overcame Keerthivassan Suresh 6-4, 6-2 in a two-hour contest, showing his consistency and composure under pressure.

Both players began aggressively, trading early breaks of serve to level at 1-1.

Manish then broke Keerthivassan's serve to go 2-1 up and consolidated to make it 3-1. Keerthivassan responded strongly, holding and breaking back to edge ahead 4-3.

However, Manish lifted his game from that point, breaking his opponent's serve again to close the opening set.

On the other hand, Vaishnavi outgunned Akanksha Nitture 6-1, 6-2 to bag the women's singles title. —*PTI*

TOTTENHAM VS LEEDS

Kudus stars for Tottenham in gritty win

LONDON, 22 JAN

An impressive Leeds United run was finally ended as finishing and a class act winger proved the difference in Saturday's 2-1 win for Tottenham Hotspur, which finished with White fury aimed at an official.

Tottenham returned from the Arctic Circle to give Leeds United the cold shoulder at Elland Road. And in the process, become the first side to beat Daniel Farke's men on home soil in more than a year.

Two deflected goals from Mathys Tel and Mohammed Kudus were enough to secure Spurs' first win in three games. Making amends for failing to beat Wolves, and then European minnows Bodo Glimt in the Champions League last week.

Noah Okafor had struck his second goal of the season to cancel out Tel's 23rd-minute opener. But Kudus pounced before the hour mark with his first Spurs goal, to sink Leeds in wet conditions in Yorkshire and maintain his side's strong start to the new campaign.

Leeds had headed into this clash in a confident mood and looking to protect their unbeaten home record. In fact, Leeds hadn't lost at Elland Road in over 12 months, a 23-game run stretching back to September 2024. With two wins, two draws, and two defeats, Leeds had made a decent start to life back in the top flight. And Farke's side made a bright start, to put the visitors under the cosh. —*PTI*

Mohammed Kudus scored the winner as Tottenham downed Leeds *PHOTO: X/@ TOTTENHAM*

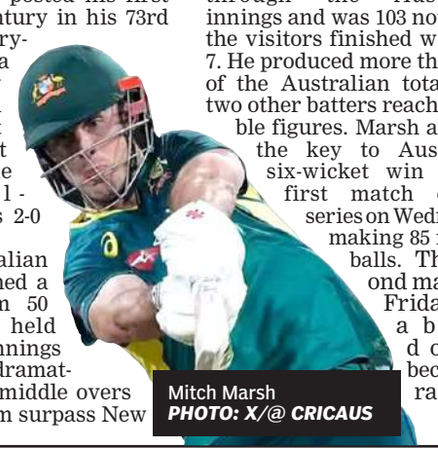
Australia wins Chappell-Hadlee series

MOUNT MAUNGANUI, 4 OCT

Mitch Marsh posted his first Twenty20 century in his 73rd innings, carrying Australia past New Zealand in a three-wicket win that clinched the Chappell-Hadlee series 2-0 on Saturday.

The Australian captain reached a century from 50 balls and held together an innings that faltered dramatically in the middle overs to see his team surpass New Zealand's total of 156-9 with two overs to spare.

Marsh carried his bat through the Australian innings and was 103 not out as the visitors finished with 160-7. He produced more than 60% of the Australian total: only two other batters reached double figures. Marsh also was the key to Australia's six-wicket win in the first match of the series on Wednesday, making 85 from 43 balls. The second match on Friday was abandoned because of rain. —*PTI*



Mitch Marsh *PHOTO: X/@ CRICAUS*